



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN FORESTERS

C.E.F. Presidency Activity Report – 31 August – 31 December 2013

As per the CEF Statute hereby a periodic presidency activity report is presented to the honored CEF members.

In the past quarter year some regular and other important events happened that concerns the Council of European Foresters.

I. Handling over the CEF presidency from Turkey to Hungary for the 2013. August – 2014. August.

31st of August, 2013 – Budapest, Hungary

A ceremony of taking over the Presidency of CEF by dr. eng. Janos Halmagyi, president of the Hungarian Foresters Union from eng. Ali Kucukaydin, President of the Turkish Chamber of Forest Engineers. The ceremony was attended by Ali Kucukaydin, Mevlut Duzgun, Marian Stoicescu, Silviu Geană, Radu Apolzan, Janos Halmagyi, Peter Dudas and Jozsef Dubravszky. At the meeting in Budapest it was presented an Activity Report for the period August 2012-August 2013 by the President of CEF, Ali Kucukaydin, a Draft Action Program for the period August 2013-CEF August 2014 by Mr. Janos Halmagyi and a Draft Action Program of the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe by Mr. Marian Stoicescu.

II. The International Manifestations of the Foresters in Băile Felix, Romania

6-9 of September, 2013 – Băile Felix, Romania

Have participated CEF forester members from Bosnia, Hungary, Moldova Republic, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. The Program of the International Manifestations of the Foresters was:

1. Meeting of the Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.) and the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.) At the end of the meeting the following Statement was issued:

STATEMENT

Taking into account the role and the importance of European foresters activity to maintain and develop forests in Europe, the Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.) Board and the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe (A.G.F.E.E.), during their meetings that they have had on 7 and 8 September 2013 in Baile Felix, Romania, decided to continue their participation in the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe initiated by Forest Europe – The Ministerial Conference on the protection of Forests in Europe, in order to establish the legal framework for the implementation of a sustainable forest management to all forests in Europe.

Also, the Council of European Foresters Board and the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe decided to continue their initiatives to complete Annex I and Annex II of European Commission Decision No. 391/2004 with the Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe. The A.G.F.E.E. could be co-opted by the European Commission for the recognition of



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monitoring organization for the implementation of EU Regulation No. 995/2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. Also, A.G.F.E.E. can be involved by the European Commission to review the monitoring organizations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. In direct contact with operators who place timber and timber products on the market, A.G.F.E.E. can organize seminars and consulting services for them to meet the EU Regulation No. 995/2010.

*Council of European Foresters
President
Janos Halmagyi*

*Advisory Group of Forest Experts from Europe
President
Marian Stoicescu*

2. SYMPOSIUM with the theme "Premise for developing forestry law in Europe. The need to adapt forestry regulations in different European countries to the framework developed by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe"
Have presented documents : Ion Dubovici – Ukraine, Ali Kucukaydin and Mevlut Duzgun – Turkey, Zoran Govedar – Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sari Zsolt – Hungary, Ioan Milescu, Radu Apolzan and Marian Stoicescu-Romania, Dumitru Galupa and Vladislav Grati – Moldova Republic
3. International Sportive Competition „Consilva Cup” in football, chess, table tennis, darts, whist and backgammon. Have participated 200 foresters from 6 countries. The winners:: Football – Romania, Chess –Moldova Republic, Table tennis – Romania, Darts – Romania, Whist – Romania, Backgammon - Romania

III. INC4+: Fourth resumed session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in Geneva

6-8 of November 2013 –Geneva, Switzerland

A delegation of 39 members of the Council of European Foresters attended INC4+ meeting in Geneva, 6-8 November 2013. In the plenary of INC4+ it was presented the CEF Statement for the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

The Statement of the Council of European Foresters for INC 4+ Genève, 7- 8 November 2013

The Council of European Foresters (C.E.F.) is an important part of the forestry sector from Europe and also an important part of civil society in the forestry sector in Europe.

C.E.F., an international NGO comprising until now nearly 60,000 foresters from 12 countries from Europe, participated with observer statute at the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

At the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), C.E.F. has made proposals for the text of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe and submitted to the INC three statements: to INC-Forests 3 from Antalya, to the Resumed INC-Forests 3 from Saint Petersburg and to INC-Forests 4 from Warsaw.



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C.E.F. considers that the involvement of European foresters in developing a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe is a necessity to ensure a forestry expertise and a professional forestry background of the Agreement.

Taking the foresters' proposals into consideration in developing the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe could create a strong link between the theoretical basis of this Agreement and the implementation of the Agreement in practice.

After the approval and ratification of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, the Secretariat of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, together with operational bodies of the Agreement, will ensure proper monitoring and enforcement of this Agreement.

C.E.F. considers that in these operational bodies of the Agreement can be included the representatives of civil society in the forestry sector, including organizations of the foresters.

C.E.F. thanks to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the opportunity to participate in the development of the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe, which will be for the forestry sector in Europe and throughout Europe a huge step for ensuring sustainable forest management of all forests and the ratification of this Agreement will represent a historic event to equally recognize all forest functions: economic function, environmental function and social function.

This Statement is signed by all the participants at the INC 4+, Geneva, 7-8 November 2013

During the two day negotiation series a several plenary sessions and focus group meetings were held. The professional forestry content of the text was barely touched because due to the successful work of the previous INC rounds the professional content is almost perfectly ready. Not like the political consensus that was the hottest spot throughout the fourth resumed, last session. Though the positions of the representatives of the signing countries got very much closer, a total consensus could be reached. Therefore INC4+ Resolution was that the FOREST EUROPE Expert Forest Meeting will finalize the Legally Binding Agreement on Forest in Europe in Valladolid, Spain, 4-5 February, 2014.

Dr. Halmágyi János

President of the Council of European Foresters